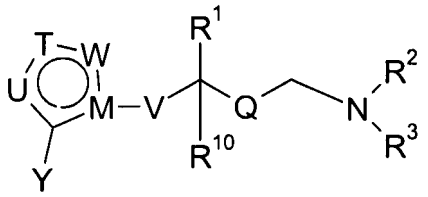
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Y represents ~~C1 to 4 alkyl,~~ C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said ~~alkyl or~~ alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$,

$S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y represents CN.

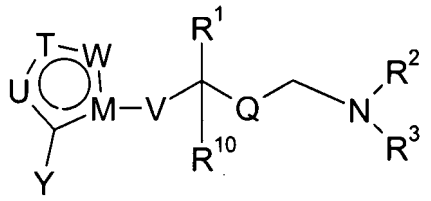
4. (Original) A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, which is:
3-[[(1S)-2-amino-1-phenylethyl]thio]-5-methyl-2-thiophenecarbonitrile;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

7-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~the method~~ comprising treating ~~or preventing~~ pain by administering a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$, $S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

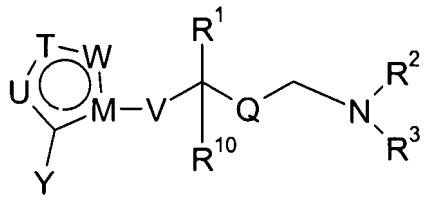
R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~as defined in Claim 1~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~the method~~ comprising treating ~~or preventing~~ an inflammatory disease comprising administering a compound of formula (I) ~~as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a COX-2 inhibitor~~



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$, $S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

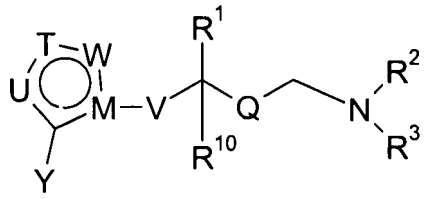
R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a cox-2 inhibitor.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial which comprises administering ~~a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,~~ to a person suffering from, or at increased risk of, such diseases or conditions, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$, $S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

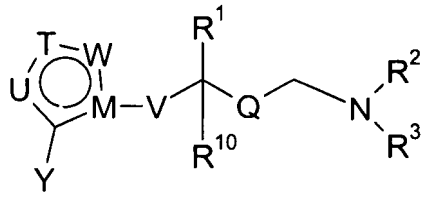
R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, inflammatory disease in a person suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), ~~as defined in Claim 1,~~



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$,

$S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

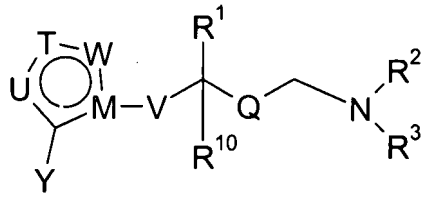
R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), ~~as defined in Claim 1,~~



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents NR^4, O, CH_2, $S(O)_n$, OCH_2, CH_2O, NR^4CH_2, CH_2NR^4, $CH_2S(O)_n$, $S(O)_nCH_2$, CH_2CH_2 or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

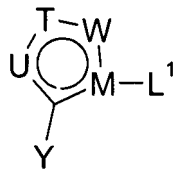
R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

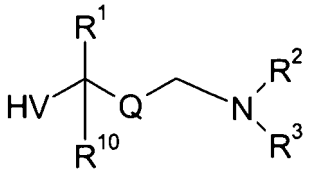
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

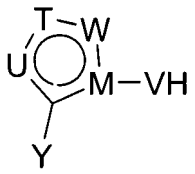
wherein ~~T, U, W, Y and M are as defined in Claim 1 and~~ L^1 represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

~~wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^{10}, Q^- and V are as defined in Claim 1~~; or

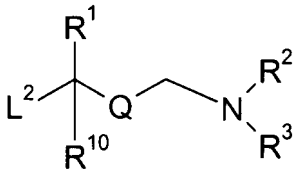
(b) reaction of a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

~~wherein T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1~~,

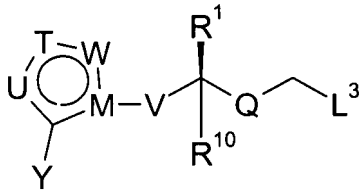
with a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein ~~R~~^{1}~~, R~~^{2}~~, R~~^{3}~~, R~~^{10} ~~and Q are as defined in Claim 1 and~~ L^2 is a leaving group; or

(c) reaction of a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

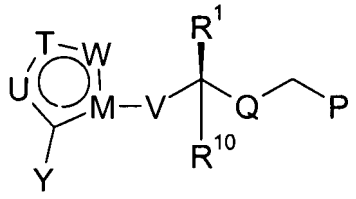
wherein ~~R~~^{1}~~, R~~^{10}~~, Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and~~ L^3 is a leaving group,

with a compound of formula (VII)

R^2R^3NH (VII)

~~wherein R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1~~; or

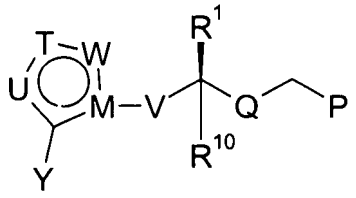
(d) reduction of a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

wherein ~~R^1, R^{10}, Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and~~ P represents azide (N_3); or

(e) hydrolysis of a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

wherein ~~R^1, R^{10}, Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and~~ P represents an imide group;

and where desired or necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting one compound of formula (I)

into another compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.

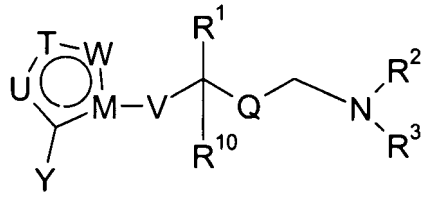
18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase that is inhibited.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the disease is inflammatory bowel disease.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the disease is osteoarthritis.

22. (New) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$, NH_2, NHCHO, $NHCOCH_3$, or $NHSO_2CH_3$; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

T, U and W independently represent CX or $S(O)_m$, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent $S(O)_m$; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C≡CH, $N(R^{11})_2$, NO_2, CH_2OH, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

V represents $S(O)_n$;

n represents an integer 0;

M represents C;

R^{10} represents H or Me;

Q represents $(CH_2)_p$ and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO_2 or NR^5R^6; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, $-Z-NR^7R^8$, phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF_3, OCF_3, CN or NO_2;

Z represents –CO– or a bond;

R^4 and R^{11} independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^9 represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, $COCH_3$, SO_2CH_3 or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.